

DOCUMENTS

Relating to "Bill for the increase of the military establishment of the United States."

JUNE 17, 1836.

Laid on the table by Mr. BENTON, and ordered to be printed.

OFFICE OF COM. GEN. OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington, June 16, 1836.

SIR: My attention has been called to the *amendment* of the "bill for the increase of the military establishment of the United States," reported to the Senate yesterday. I owe it to the department over which I have the honor to preside, to request an increase of its officers. As now organized, this department consists of one commissary general of subsistence, one major, one captain, and as many assistant commissaries of subsistence, taken from subalterns of the line, as the service may require. The recent increase, and the contemplated additional increase of the army, produces a correspondent increase of the duties and responsibilities of the department. Of my own rank, I forbear to speak, but it is due to the long, faithful, and efficient services of those who have aided me in the administration of the department, to ask an addition to the number of the immediate officers of the department, and an increase of rank, correspondent with the increase of its duties.

The important depots at St. Louis, New Orleans, New York, and Detroit, require the services of officers of great experience. Extensive purchases are frequently made at those points; a general supervision, particularly as regards the West and Northwest, is required over the arrangements and operations of contractors; a single failure at a remote part, is productive of loss and inconvenience. The recent passage of the volunteer bill, will greatly increase the duties of the department.

I respectfully call your attention to the fact that, although required by law to perform the duties of assistant quartermaster, in addition to their duties in the Subsistence department, assistant commissaries of subsistence receive no forage, and, in effect, no more than fourteen dollars per month, in addition to their pay in the line. The construction given to the act of 2d March, 1827, deprives assistant commissaries of subsistence of the additional ration then granted to captains and subalterns.

I feel that the additional officers asked for will greatly subserve the interest of the service.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

GEO. GIBSON, C. G. S.

The Hon. T. H. BENTON,
Chairman Military Committee, Senate U. S.

AMENDMENT.

SEC. 22. *And be it further enacted*, That, in addition to the officers of the Subsistence department, provided for by existing laws, there shall be in the said department one lieutenant colonel, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a colonel of cavalry ; three majors, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of majors of cavalry ; and as many assistant commissaries, to be taken from the subalterns of the line of the army, as the service may require, who shall be entitled to receive twenty dollars per month, in addition to their other pay and emoluments ; and nothing in this act shall be so construed as to prevent their receiving the additional ration of which they have been deprived by the proviso of the "Act giving further compensation to the captains and subalterns of the army of the United States in certain cases," approved 2d March, 1827.